

Committee on Community Quality of Life
Minutes
Thursday November 4, 2010

Members Present: TMoran (Chair), EPaterson, DMorse, DKeane (arrived 7:45pm), JReisen, JFried, JFriedman (alternate)

Members Absent: JSaddlemire, CKeuffner (alternate)

Staff Present: MNinteanu, JHintz, MHart

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 7:34pm

2. Appointment of Recording Secretary

Jake Friedman was appointed Recording Secretary

3. Approval of October 7, 2010 minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made. Motion passed unanimously, with 2 abstentions: DMorse and JFriedman

4. Opportunity for Public to Address the Committee

W. Alan Hirsch of Hunting Lodge Road commented that his house was broken into, beer stolen and vintage car vandalized late last Saturday night, during the typical Halloween parties in the area. He noted that adjacent homes were quiet and it was more likely due to partygoers walking to/from parties at Carriage House Apartments. He would like to see the Committee direct its efforts at addressing behavior problems rather than parking, % of ownership or number of people per house. He would like to see more UConn involvement in behavior issues and more UConn Police presence off campus during weekend evenings/parties to address behavior issues that are not necessarily associated with a particular property.

5. Chairperson's Report

No report for this month

6. Communications

Discussion of Fall off-campus parties. MHart commented that this year's Halloween weekend party sizes at Carriage House were larger than typical, about as large as Spring Weekend parties. JFried expressed a desire to see more involvement at the state level, by state politicians. JHintz gave his perspective on the issue, pointed out the need to hold party hosts accountable, explained the general process/options for enforcing the Student Code/consequences. He passed out a list of consequences and can ask Cathy Cox (of the Community Standards office) to attend a meeting of this committee if desired. Some interest was expressed in having her attend. JHintz passed out recent survey results, outlining feedback on his office's "welcome packets" (these are handed out to students living off campus at the start of the semesters). DMorse encouraged use of more substantive questions in the survey and a wider array of materials in the packet, such as information on not for profit organizations (e.g. Food Co-op, etc.) that students may not know about. DKeane proposed encouraging "home town students" (who grew up in town and now attend UConn) to act as ambassadors during the door-to-door "welcome walks". Members of the committee and community at large are encouraged to provide further feedback to Jim's office.

7. Items of Business

a) Nuisance House Ordinance:

MNinteu described the intent of the ordinance- to address repeat nuisance behaviors. Changes were made to the draft from the last review, as described in the 10/7 meeting minutes.

JFried motioned to recommend the draft as written to the Town Council for approval. Seconded by DMorse.

JFriedman proposed a friendly amendment to remove reference to age- the term “younger”- in Section 3 (Findings and Purpose) of the draft. Motion failed with at least 5 against.

JFriedman proposed a second friendly amendment to change wording in Section 6C (Enforcement) from “twice in any one year period” to “three times in any one year period.” DKeane proposed a friendly amendment to read “twice in any six month period or three times in any one year period.” Motion passed unanimously. Wording shall be changed to read “twice in any six month period or three times in any one year period” when referring to fines against a landlord.

Motion to recommend the revised Nuisance House Ordinance to the Town Council for approval passed unanimously.

b) Large Assembly Ordinance:

Staff is reviewing with the Town Attorney and will have an update at the next meeting.

c) Housing Code- Definition of Owner:

MNinteu described the proposed change as an effort to close a loophole in the current Housing Code, where parents may purchase a property for their student/child and deed them a small portion to avoid home inspections/fees. Around 16 homes are expected to be affected by the change.

JFried left at approximately 9:20pm.

JFriedman expressed concern over the proposed change, opined that it is excessively intrusive to private property rights.

DKeane motioned to recommend the change as described for adoption by the Town Council. Seconded. DKeane, JReisen, DMorse, TMoran, EPaterson in favor. JFriedman opposed. Motion passed.

JHintz passed out data on parking, as requested on 10/7.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jake Friedman
Recording Secretary